

House Resolution 730

By: Representatives Franklin of the 43rd, Williams of the 4th, Hill of the 21st, Coan of the 101st, Lunsford of the 110th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging all members of the United States Congress to vote against any agreement for the
2 United States to enter into a Free Trade Area of the Americas; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States of America has always been the world leader in pushing for
4 free trade, which is a hallmark of our capitalistic society; and

5 WHEREAS, free trade only thrives where there is a level playing field of government
6 regulations between trading partners; and

7 WHEREAS, the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was supposed to
8 bring additional prosperity to the United States and level the playing field with Canada and
9 Mexico, thus perpetuating free trade between our nations; and

10 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the good intentions of NAFTA, our nation has suffered the loss
11 of almost 900,000 jobs due to NAFTA, many of them coming in the manufacturing sector;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, manufacturing jobs in the United States have plunged from 19.3 million in 1980
14 to only about 14.6 million today, in large part because of these types of trade issues; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States has gone from a trade surplus with Mexico prior to NAFTA
16 to a substantial trade deficit; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States is a current member of the World Trade Organization (WTO),
18 which has been called "The United Nations of World Trade"; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States consistently bows to the wishes of the WTO, only proving the
20 words of Texas Congressman Ron Paul to be prophetic: "The most important reason why we
21 should get out [of the WTO] is to maintain our nation's sovereignty. We should never deliver

1 to any international governing body the authority to dictate what our laws should be. And this
2 is precisely the kind of power that has been given to the WTO"; and

3 WHEREAS, both the WTO and NAFTA, through the use of trade tribunals, now claim the
4 sovereign authority to overrule decisions of American courts and make awards to foreign
5 businesses for violations of trade agreements; and

6 WHEREAS, Abner Mikva, a former chief judge on the federal appellate bench and a former
7 congressman, has stated: "If Congress had known there was anything like this in NAFTA,
8 they never would have voted for it"; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States is considering entering into a new 34-member Free Trade
10 Area of the Americas (FTAA) in 2005; and

11 WHEREAS, based upon the experience that the United States has had with NAFTA and the
12 WTO, United States membership in the planned FTAA would increase manufacturing flight
13 in the state of Georgia and throughout the United States.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
15 the members of this body respectfully but firmly urges all members of the United States
16 Congress to vote against any agreement for the United States to enter into a Free Trade Area
17 of the Americas.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
19 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Congressional
20 Delegation.